

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE UPDATE

The National Park Service's National Historic Landmarks Assistance Initiative provides technical assistance to Landmark owners and stewards. Free and low-cost information is available on a wide range of subjects from repair of historic windows to preservation of cultural landscapes. NPS staff also provides site-specific technical assistance and assists with many aspects of preservation, including preparing preservation plans, identifying funding sources, and developing heritage tourism and educational efforts. NHL owners and stewards may apply for NPS Challenge Cost Share grants, which have been used for activities such as planning, interpretation and repair.

In September 1998, a group of NHLs stewards met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After discussion of the potential benefits, they decided to pursue the formation of a National Historic Landmarks Stewards' Association. Dr. Mary Leach, representing the newly-designated Medical College of Baltimore, and Robert Darrie, representing Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia, are the newly elected co-chairs of this nascent organization.

This year, the National Park Service initiated a newsletter for owners and stewards of National Historic Landmarks. *The National Historic Landmarks Network* is published semi-annually to share news among NHL stewards, NPS staff nationwide, and national partner organizations. Beginning with the Fall, 1998 issue, the newsletter will include regular columns from two of our preservation partners, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation along with information from Landmark owners and stewards.

The National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are developing a joint national policy statement expressing support of National Historic Landmarks nationwide. These organizations will seek to coordinate assistance to reinforce each other's efforts to assist and protect Landmarks.

Activities in NPS support offices included the renaming of the NHL formerly known as "Wagon Bed Springs" as "Lower Cimarron Spring NHL", as a result of research into this elusive but important spring on the old Santa Fe trail. Based on study by the NPS Intermountain Support Office – Denver the boundary of this site located in Grant County, Kansas, was expanded from 4 to 195 acres.

The Columbia Cascades Support Office continued to address the mooring needs of the many National Historic Landmark ships in Puget Sound. The office is working with stewards and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to find a solution to this challenge.

Free and low cost information is available on a wide range of subjects from repair of historic windows to preservation of cultural landscapes. To request a catalog of preservation publications available, call 202/343-9583.